

Forest Service Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
El Rito Ranger District

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2010

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIs) JAROSITA ALLOTMENT # 00210

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CARSON NATIONAL FOREST EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT

District Ranger	Date

Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs)

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions are in reference to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael, Sandra Imler-Jacquez, and Diana Trujillo on January 15, 2010 and are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit. The authorized eartag color is "white." The authorized use for the 2010 Grazing Season on the Jarosita Allotment is as follows:

Authorized Use Permittee **Permitted Use Eartags** Remarks # Name Season # Season 6/16 - 10/156/16-10/15 Rudy J. 80 cc 80 White 1-Jaramillo 80 cc

Table 1 - Permittee Information and Season of Use

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Jarosita Allotment. The El Rito Range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest.

Nonuse applies only to animal numbers. Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in written form for all of the permitted numbers (Total Nonuse), or part of the permitted numbers (Partial Nonuse). Verbal applications will not be accepted. If a permittee elects to request "total nonuse" he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

A credit/refund application must be completed within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

Season dates are dependant on range readiness inspections. Dates for range readiness inspections have been scheduled for May 26, 2010. You are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be departing the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 am.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Jarosita Allotment. The El Rito range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest. A five-day grace period will be allowed for removal of stray(s) permitted cattle from the allotment.

ROTATION SCHEDULE

Initial distribution of your livestock is tenatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on range readiness and joint monitoring of actual utilization).

Table 2 - Pasture Rotation Schedule

East Pasture	6/16 – 7-/18
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West Pasture	7/19 - 8/20
Middle Pasture	8/21 – 10/15

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Forage utilization will be measured in predetermined key areas. We will need your assistance for locating and setting up these key areas. The Forest Service will contact the permittees later in the spring and summer to set these key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Jarosita Allotment. Monitoring will be conducted using Vegetative Utilization Monitoring. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

Utilization guidelines for the Jarosita allotment are light to moderate or 20-40% use of grazable forage. Utililization will be measured at the end of the growing season in the key areas.

Riparian stubble heights will be maintained at four inches throughout the grazing season. When riparian areas have been grazed down to a four inch stubble height cattle will be rotated to the next pasture or moved home early.

MONITORING RESULTS FROM 2009

Table 3

Pasture	Species	Utilization	Actual Utilization
		Guideline	
Middle	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	35-40%
Middle	Oatgrass	20-40%	30-40%
West	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	30-40%
West	Oatgrass	4020-%	30-40%
East	Sedge	20-40%	35-40%
East	Thurber Fescue	20-40%	30-40%

Monitoring was done in early to mid November, when early snows melted off. At the end of the 2009 grazing season utilization was at or near the utilization guidelines in most key grazing areas that were monitored in the three pastures. Utilization is affected by elk driven from the private land during hunting season and before monitoring. New key areas are planned to be established between FS range personnel and the permittee in order to ensure that key areas are consistent with the vegetation type in each pasture. A key grazing area is a portion of rangeland selected because of its location, grazing or browsing value, or use to serve as a monitoring and evaluation point for range condition, trend, or degree of grazing use. Key areas reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the rangeland and guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part. The intent of monitoring in key grazing areas is to maintain good to excellent range

conditions in key areas while accommodating the needs of wildlife. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock to achieve a light to moderate grazing intensity of 20-40% by weight of annual available forage in key grazing areas. It will be important in the 2010 grazing season that cattle be rotated on time and distributed evenly to prevent over grazing in these key areas.

MONITORING

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use and movement of livestock. Permittees are encouraged and invited to participate in these inspections. The date for range readiness has been set for May 26, 2010. Additional inspections will be held on **July 21**, **September 2**, with an "End of Season" monitoring on **October 4**, **2010**. Once the allowable use is achieved, livestock must be moved into the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment.

The length of season depends on the intensity of management and cooperation between permittees on livestock distribution and moving from pasture to pasture. Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is encouraged.

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to manage within specified utilization standards.

If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights, then the remaining key areas will also be monitored and the pasture inspected to determine overall use patterns.

This information will be used to determine if cattle need to be re-distributed within the pasture or removed from the pasture.

Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated.

Regular herding and riding practices are the key to achieving proper livestock distribution on the allotment, and to provide for the fullest use of the grazing season. Salt must be placed out of bottoms, away from water, roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

The following projects have been proposed for construction/maintenance for the 2010 grazing season.

- Permittee would like to see if we can find funding to repair some earthen dams on the allotment.
- Permittee would like to reconstruct approximately 2 ½ miles of fence from private land boundary towards La Manga.

All range improvements must be maintained to a good functioning condition before livestock are placed on the allotment. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify the range personnel so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts while you are maintaining your fences on your allotment, you can get authorization to cut these materials by obtaining a Free Use Permit from the range personnel at the El Rito office.

ALLOTMENT STATUS

Direction for management on the allotment is being documented in the AOI.

An Environmental Assessment for the Jarosita Allotment was completed in 2007. An Allotment Management Plan for the allotment was also completed in 2007 and provides management direction for the allotment.

Open and positive communication is encouraged. Feel free to contact the range personnel if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, on the ground status, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and possible changes in allotment management.

ACTUAL USE INFORMATION JAROSITA ALLOTMENT 2010 GRAZING SEASON

Attachment 1

Pasture	Livestock	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
	Number & Class	Date on	Date off	Date on	Date off	
East Pasture	80 c/c	6/16/10	7/18/10			
West Pasture	80 c/c	7/19/10	8/20/10			
Middle Pasture	80 c/c	8/21/10	10/15/10			

Number of Head counted on	
Number of head lost:	

Table 4

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

UTILIZATION INFORMATION JAROSITA ALLOTMENT 2010 GRAZING SEASON

Attachment 2

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months (AUM's)	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
East					
Pasture					
West					
Pasture					
Middle					
Pasture					

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION ADJUSTMENTS JAROSITA ALLOTMENT 2010 GRAZING SEASON

Date	Action Item	Action Taken	Initials